With bonfire season approaching, many of us will be building up the bonfires and buying exciting fireworks in preparation for celebrations on 5 November.

To ensure you enjoy Guy Fawkes Night safely, Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service is urging people to heed the following advice.

Fireworks are fun but can be extremely dangerous. It is therefore vital to buy fireworks that are marked BS 7114 – the British standard that all fireworks should meet. Always read the instructions for each firework carefully.

On the night, store the fireworks in a closed metal box and take them out one at a time. Keep a bucket of water close by and always wear eye protection and gloves.

One person should be responsible for letting the fireworks off. When everyone is standing well back, the fireworks should be lit at arm’s length using a taper. Never go back to a firework after it has been lit, even if it hasn’t gone off it could still explode.

Make sure children with sparklers are supervised and never give them to a child under five. Only light one sparkler at a time and when finished, put the hot end down into a bucket of sand or water.

If you are having a bonfire it is crucial to consider where and how you build it. It should be kept to a reasonable size and not positioned underneath cables. Dry material only should be burnt as damp material will cause more smoke.

No aerosols, tyres or anything containing foam or paint should be burned as many produce toxic fumes and some containers may explode.

Remember to check the bonfire for hibernating wildlife before lighting, and don’t use petrol or paraffin to get the fire going as it may get out of control quickly.

Once the bonfire is lit, keep a bucket of water nearby and do not leave unattended. Make sure children and pets are kept well away and never throw fireworks or rubbish into the flames.

Once the bonfire has died down, spray the embers with water to stop it reigniting.

For further advice contact your local fire station or visit www.direct.gov.uk/firekills